

# 25-year-old mother vanishes mysteriously

By Andy Jokelson

The Tribune

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RICHMOND — Police are investigating the unexplained disappearance of a young mother and her car from her home, where a substantial quantity of blood was found in her bedroom Wednesday.

Marsha Carter, a 25-year-old divorced woman with four sons, was last seen by them at their home on Santa Clara Street between 9 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, when the children went to bed, police spokesman Ray Ramer said.

Ramer said a neighbor phoned police at about 7:55 a.m. Wednesday to report Carter's disappearance after her three oldest sons, aged 11, 9 and 7, had run across the street to his house to report that their mother was not at home.

The neighbor, Jim Hicks, said he found the fourth child, a one-year-old named Smitty, lying wide-eyed beneath his mother's bed, unharmed.

Anyone with information about Carter or her car is asked to call Richmond police at 231-2085.

Ramer described Carter as a light-complexioned black woman about 5-feet 5-inches tall and weighing 129 pounds. He said he does not know what kind of clothing she was last seen wearing. He said her car is a four-door, copper-colored 1975 Mercury Monarch with the California license plate number 545 MQI.

Hicks said Carter's older chil-

dren told him they heard a scream at about 11:30 p.m. Tuesday, but thought it was their one-year-old brother and then heard what seemed to be footsteps on the roof.

# Police find no trace of missing mother of 4

By Andy Jokelson

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RICHMOND — Police on Thursday continued looking for a mother who may have been killed or severely injured in her home here.

They have yet to find a trace of her or her car.

Sgt. Ray Ramer said police have "not focused in on a suspect" in the disappearance of Marsha Carter, a divorced, 25-year-old mother of four sons.

"We're just talking with everyone that has a connection with this case," Ramer said, but he declined to elaborate.

Carter's children last saw her at their home on Santa Clara

Street Tuesday night.

There was blood in her bedroom, but "as far as I know, there was no sign of forced entry," Ramer said.

"The longer she is missing, the longer it takes to locate her, tends to indicate, you know, that definite harm to her is present," he said.

Her three oldest sons, 11, 9 and 5, have been placed in the custody of their father, Carter's ex-husband, who lives in Oakland, said Ramer.

A one-year-old boy, son of another man, is being cared for by Contra Costa County protective services staff.



Marsha Carter

No trace

Ramer said Carter, who worked as a purchasing agent for a manufacturing firm, had been a singer with a local rock band.

# Richmond mother's body found in car trunk

DEC 18 1983

*By The Tribune staff and news services*

SACRAMENTO — The body of Marsha Carter, the 25-year-old Richmond mother of four missing since Dec. 7, was discovered early Saturday in the trunk of her car in a West Sacramento hotel parking lot.

Richmond police Sgt. Bill Gibson said Saturday that Yolo County sheriff's deputies made the discovery at about 1:30 a.m. after owners of the Hotel El Rancho noticed the car, a copper-colored 1975 Mercury Monarch, parked in the lot for several days.

Yolo County authorities notified Richmond police after a check on the car's license plate revealed it belonged to the missing Richmond woman, identified as Marsha Carter, said Gibson.

Richmond police detectives were dispatched to the scene and remained there through most of

Saturday collecting evidence and interviewing possible witnesses, he said.

There were no suspects Saturday, but Gibson said the investigation will continue. Carter's children have indicated that a boyfriend may be involved, and police are seeking the unidentified man for questioning.

An autopsy to determine Carter's cause of death is pending, Gibson said. Three of the divorced woman's four children awoke on the morning of Dec. 7 to find their mother missing and her bedroom spattered with blood. The fourth child was beneath her bed, unharmed.

Carter was last seen by her children at the family's Santa Clara Street home before they retired for bed the evening of Dec. 6, sometime between 9 and 9:30 p.m.